

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
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802-326-4719 <http://www.montgomeryvt.us>
CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2021

The meeting at the Rec. Center was called to order by Carissa Stein at 5:39 p.m.
Attendance: Susan Baker, Patrick Calecas, Joan Hildreth, Parma Jewett, Matt Paggi,
Carissa Stein. Absent: Charlie Hancock, John Kuryloski, Lynn Locher, Sue Wilson.
Visitors: None.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda – None.

Minutes from September 1, 2021 – Patrick made a motion to approve the minutes,
seconded by Parma. (Everyone in attendance at this meeting was also at the September
meeting.) Motion passed unanimously; September 1, 2021 minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report – Not available for this meeting.

Planned Events/Projects:

-UMATR Grant – Town Forest (TF) Planning – It was reported that the meeting on
9/16 with the two technical service providers (TSPs) (Sinuosity & Arrowwood) and
members of the MCC's Grant and TF subcommittees went well. The TSPs have
developed a Scope of Work outline and it was discussed at this MCC meeting. All
agreed that it looked good overall, but there were a few questions and additional ideas
raised. Joan will share the MCC's feedback with the TSPs. The Town Forest Walk on
September 18th was well attended, with about 25 community members present. Lindsey
Wight of UMATR was able to join the walk, too. There was a lot of interest in the TF
and its future expressed by participants during the walk. In order to obtain additional
community input, a survey about the TF was developed and has been distributed through
various means (listserv, MCC Facebook page, Front Porch Forum [FPF], Town website).
Carissa shared results which have come in thus far. Over 25 people have already
responded. It was agreed that October 31st would be a reasonable cut-off date for the
survey. Joan will provide an update to Lindsey Wight of UMATR re: Scope of Work for
the project and the status of the surveys.

**-Kurt Valenta Owl Presentation, Saturday, October 30th at 10:00 a.m. in Richford at
Arvin A. Brown Library**– Carissa is working on the flyer for the event. There was
discussion about the possible impact of Covid on the event, including the question of
potential cancellation if Covid guidelines were to necessitate that. Joan agreed to contact
Annette Goyne of RCC re: this question. Once the flyer is made, the event will be
promoted through the usual means (posted flyers, MCC Facebook page, Town website,
Town newsletter, listserv, etc.)

Proposed Events:

-Talks on Crop Pests, Forest Pests, Invasives – There was discussion about possible
presenters and topics as well as timing for a presentation. All agreed that, given the time
of year and the potential for restrictions due to Covid as well as the large number of
Zoom events available right now, it would make sense to schedule an in-person talk in

the spring. Parma agreed to ask Mary Niles if she would be interested in doing a presentation about climate change and crop resistance/adaptability.

- **ANR/VT Fish and Wildlife Presentations for Vermonters Serving on Town Boards and Municipal Staff** – Carissa shared information about this, indicating that these presentations could be very helpful to the MCC as we move forward with various plans. She agreed to screen some of the presentations to determine which ones would be most relevant. All agreed that this was a great idea and viewing presentations on-line over the winter could be an option.

Discussion:

- **TF Survey Results (including how to disseminate)** – The TF survey has been sent out (see above under “UMATR Grant”) and over 25 people have responded. It was agreed to have a cut-off date of October 31, 2021 for the survey. Joan will post reminders on Facebook and FPF around October 15th.

- **Montgomery Town Library Literature on Conservation and Promotion** – Town Librarian Marlene Hambleton had let the MCC know that all of the conservation books on the compiled list have been purchased, and the total cost is \$580. The MCC had previously approved a total of \$500 for the books (initially \$350, then an additional \$150.) After discussion, all agreed that the MCC would like to pay for the entire purchase. As such, an additional \$80 would be needed. Carissa made a motion to authorize an additional \$80 for the purchase of the conservation-related books for the library. Patrick seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Marlene had also raised ideas about promoting the Conservation Corner at the library. All agreed that the promotional ideas sounded great and that the MCC would be pleased to support those efforts. Joan plans to let Marlene know about the additional \$80 authorized and also that we like her promotional ideas and would have MCC representation available for any events/activities she plans re: the library’s Conservation Corner.

- **Garden Club/Barrel Planting** – There was discussion about the idea of the MCC taking on the barrel planting and everyone agreed that it would not be appropriate for the MCC to do so. Carissa plans to discuss this with Marsha Phillips. One thought was that the library or Selectboard could be helpful with the decision re: the future of the barrel planting, and Carissa plans to share that thought with Marsha.

- **2022 River Community Grants for UMATR due Monday, November 1st** – Carissa shared information about the grants and raised the idea of strategic wood additions (snags/logs) to help maintain/restore soil quality. All agreed that would be a great project but with the quickly approaching deadline for the grant application and the other projects the MCC is involved with currently, it is not the right time. This is something to consider for the future, though.

Matt made a motion, seconded by Parma, to adjourn at 6:32 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth